GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2203
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2004
FREIGHT CHARGES FOR LIMESTONE
Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway freight charges for limestone has increased four times whereas import duty and freight charges on imported limestone have slashed down;

(b) if so, the details of the increase and decrease in this regard, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government is considering to bring the transportation of limestone under category 110 and to provide 10% exemption of freight charges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) No, Sir. Railway freight charges for imported as well as indigenous limestone are the same and have not been increased since 2002-03.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d): No, Sir. In the Railway Budget 2004-05 also, the freight rates for limestone have not been increased despite increase in railways' working expenses. Limestone continues to be charged at Class-120 for trainloads.